

# STRUGGLE★LA LUCHA

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Struggle-La-Lucha.org  
Socialist Unity Party  
Partido de Socialismo Unido  
Vol. 7, No. 17 | September 16  
Suggested donation: \$1

# FREE the UHURU 3!

## Don't let the U.S. government criminalize international solidarity

By Cheryl LaBash

**UPDATE, Sept. 12** – In a major blow to the prosecution, the Uhuru 3 were cleared of the central charge of working as Russian agents. The defense successfully argued their focus was solely on Black liberation. Although they were found guilty of conspiring against the U.S. government, the defendants and their legal team remain confident in their fight and plan to appeal the conspiracy conviction.

Tampa, Fla., Sept. 5 – This morning, the U.S. government continued presenting its “evidence,” which may conclude the prosecution portion of the trial as early as Monday.

The U.S. government is attempting to criminalize international solidarity but has come up against a solid and growing wall of support for the Uhuru 3 when their federal trial opened Sept. 3 here in Tampa. Collectively known as the Uhuru 3 — Omali Yeshitela, Chair-



Uhuru supporters, from around the country, rallied at a press conference on Sept. 3

man of the African People's Socialist Party, Penny Hess, Chair of the African People's Solidarity Committee, and Jesse Nevel, Chair of the Uhuru Solidarity Movement — are falsely accused of being pawns of a foreign government. And, of course, that foreign government would need to be Russia to justify spending so much on the investigation and what, at the outset, looked like a lengthy trial.

The proverbial election interference elephant in the room is undoubtedly AIPAC and “Israel” that get a free pass. Not to mention the holier-than-thou

U.S. government interventions on every continent, “color” revolutions like the one preceding the war in Ukraine.

What an indictment of the U.S. government that it would even suggest that an African freedom organization with a 50-year history would need a foreign power to instruct them to fight for reparations.

But, as Yeshitela was quoted in the New York Times this week, “We’re just a vehicle that’s being used to assault free speech.” And — as the Black Alliance for Peace included in their

*Continued on page 2*

**NYC: NO! to Uhuru frame-up**



Verifying the votes at a precinct in Caracas.

- ◆ Longshore Union (ILA) vs. Wall Street
- ◆ The right to housing ◆ U.S. blood exports
- ◆ Language of the Zionist occupation
- ◆ Hunger protests in Nigeria lead to arrests
- ◆ Stand in solidarity with Kenya CP leader



Booker Ngesa Omole, CPK

# FREE the UHURU 3!

## Don't let the U.S. government criminalize international solidarity

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support statement—association, information, and political dissent. The Times article's condescending attitude to the historic struggle for Black and African self-determination and dignity focused instead on what it described as a "low tech" approach for gaining "influence" in the U.S.—solidarity.

An hour before the trial began on September 3, Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein, former New York City Councilperson Charles Barron, Jaqueline Luqman representing Black Alliance for Peace (BAP chair Ajamu Baraka arrived later), Benjamin Prado from Union del Barrio, Mama Pam, aka Pam Africa, the heart of the movement to Free Mumia, and others spoke at the press conference across the street from the Federal Court in downtown Tampa.

Sister Pam declared, "We are not coming here looking for justice, we are coming here to expose injustice. This



As one of a number of supporters who came to Tampa, Florida from around the country Mama Pam declared:

***'We are not coming here looking for justice, we are coming here to expose injustice.'***

is not something they thought out very well. They've given our brother, the Uhuru organization, each and every last freedom fighter out here, an international platform to expose exactly what these people do and the extent to which they do it."

Rev. Edward Pinkney and Mrs. Dorothy Pinkney traveled from Michigan. Pinkney is a long-time community organizer who has led resistance in Benton Harbor, Michigan, a predominantly African-American community, to a

government subservient to the Benton Harbor-based Whirlpool corporation. He suffered unjust imprisonment by a vindictive and racist capitalist power structure until a relentless international solidarity movement prevailed.

Many solidarity movements are watching this trial carefully. Nesbit Crutchfield from the Venceremos Brigade and this writer, who is a Co-chair of the National Network on Cuba, represented the Cuba solidarity movement in the U.S. #

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# Dockworkers vs. Big Money: ILA faces off against Wall Street

By Lallan Schoenstein

At the beginning of August, leaders of North America's largest dockworkers' union, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), sent the employer association, USMX, a strike notice that federal law requires 60 days before a strike.

When ILA delegates met on Sept. 4 and 5, they reported that union members voiced unanimous support for a strike. As delegates discussed the demands and a strike strategy, ILA president Harold Daggett told the ILA members they must be prepared "to hit the streets at 12:01 on Tuesday, Oct. 1."

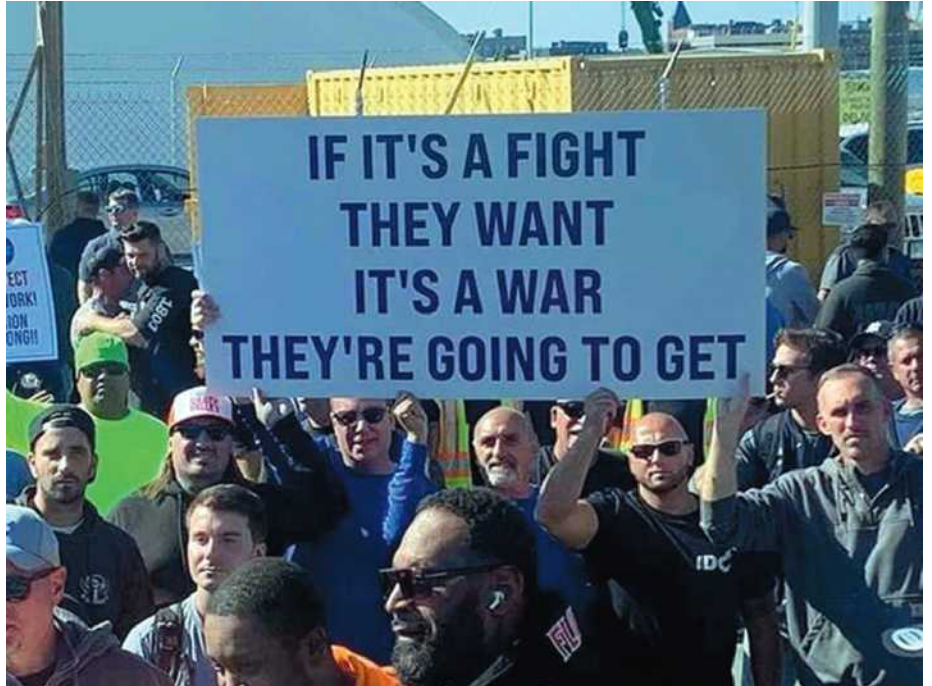
Longshore workers on the West Coast are in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). They deal with the country's biggest container volume. On the East Coast, the five busiest ports are covered by the ILA contract agreement with USMX: New York/New Jersey, Savannah, Houston, Virginia, and Charleston.

A strike by the ILA, which moves the trade at the ports along the East Coast, Gulf Coast, and Puerto Rico, would impact 43% of all U.S. imports and billions of dollars in trade every month.

Contract negotiations between the ILA and USMX began in 2022. The ILA demands are a wage increase, greater management contributions to retirement benefits, larger employer contributions to local benefits, higher starting pay, and a continuation of existing health care coverage.

## The Real Story

On July 20, in an "Open Letter to the Public: The Real Story Behind Our Fight," Dennis Daggett, the son of Harold Daggett and the ILA Executive Vice President, told members that a priority in the negotiations is the demand for the retention of existing technology language that created a framework on how to modernize and improve efficiency while protecting jobs and hours.



ILA prepares to strike on Oct. 1.

Photo: ILAUnion.org

The leadership of ILA has long been considered more conservative than the ILWU on the West Coast. The ILA says they have not been on strike in half a century since 1977. Faced with the pressures of globalization, imperialist wars, and climate change conditions, such as the drought threatening the Panama Canal, the leadership appears to be becoming more active by calling on the members to take defensive action.

In his open letter, Daggett, who is also a representative of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC), wrote:

"Over the past few years, the shipping industry has undergone a significant transformation. Many private equity firms like BlackRock, Vanguard, and State Street, which now own 88% of the companies on the S&P 500, have started to infiltrate our industry. Firms like BlackRock, focused solely on profits and return on investment, have partnered with companies like Mediterranean Shipping Company's subsidiary, Terminal Investment Lo-

gistics (TIL), and others to acquire and build terminals worldwide. Their influence is growing, and it poses a direct threat to our livelihoods.

"A decade ago, ocean carriers decided to exit the terminal operating business to concentrate on their steamship lines and logistics. But now, in the aftermath of the pandemic, they are reclaiming control over terminals. This shift isn't just about business strategy – it's about controlling where and when they can place their cargo without dealing with third parties.

"For them, it's about power and profits. For us, it's about our jobs and the future of our families.

"BlackRock and other private equity firms don't care about workers. They care about their bottom lines. They see automation as a way to increase profits, even if it means eliminating jobs historically performed by human beings. For the past two years, the ILA has been fighting to secure a

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# Capitalists want your blood and maybe your kidney and liver, too

By Stephen Millies

Malcolm X famously said, “Show me a capitalist and I’ll show you a blood-sucker.” That’s literally true for U.S. capitalism.

The U.S. exported \$37 billion of blood last year, making it the country’s ninth-largest export. That’s \$9 billion more than Uncle Sam got from selling 48 million metric tons of soybeans.

The Economist — an 181-year-old mouthpiece of the British and U.S. financial aristocracy — wants to increase the bloodsucking.

The magazine notes with approval that since 2020 — that is, since the COVID-19 pandemic began — 400 more bloodsucking plasma centers have opened across the United States.

That’s in addition to the 805 plasma centers already operating in 2019. It’s another sign of the growing poverty of the U.S. working class.

These 1,200 or so Dracula establishments are not in Beverly Hills or other fancy neighborhoods. Poor and working people go there to sell their blood because they desperately need money.

The Economist pooh-poohs any health concerns for poor folks economically compelled to sell their blood:

“Some feel uncomfortable that poorer people are allowed to open their veins. But plasma, which is mainly water, is quickly replaced by the body. Health checks exclude the truly unwell and frequent donation seems



People wait in line outside CSL Plasma on May 25, 2021, in Brownsville, Texas.

safe (although more research could be done in that area).”

The magazine admits that “more research could be done in that area.” People are allowed in the U.S. to sell their plasma twice a week. That couldn’t have helped the donor’s immune systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly seniors.

## Are body parts next?

What the Economist ignores is that ghettos, barrios, Indigenous communities, and poorer white neighborhoods are filled with plasma centers. In 2019, 43 of these blood-sucking enterprises were located near the Mexican border.

Border Patrol pigs lock up Mexican and other immigrant children in cages. But Mexicans can use a B1/B2 visa to sell their blood in the U.S.

In many cases, they do so to buy food. That’s what colonialism looks like. The U.S. government stole half of Mexico in 1848 to expand slavery.

Health care requires blood and blood products. Millions of people donate blood often during blood drives organized by community organizations including unions.

What we’re discussing here is how capitalist corporations exploit poor people who are forced to sell their blood, endangering their health.

One of these companies, CSL Behring, had sales of over \$9 billion in 2023. Behring operates more than 300 plasma centers. Right behind CSL Behring is Takeda Pharmaceuticals, which has over 200 of the establishments.

It’s not just blood that’s needed. Thousands of patients are on waiting lists for kidneys and livers.

There’s already an illegal underground market for body parts in the United States. According to the “free market” principles of the Economist, people should be able to sell their body parts for the best price.

Of course, nobody would do so unless they desperately needed the money for themselves or their loved ones. The prospect of a legal market for body parts is reminiscent of Jonathan Swift’s 295-year-old “Modest Proposal” for selling Irish children to be eaten.

Swift’s famous satire was written to expose the misery caused by English colonialism. The market for kidneys and livers is real. Blood exports are another sign of how decayed the U.S. economy has become and how oppressed the U.S. working class is. #



December 12th Movement Chairperson Omowale Clay speaks to crowd protesting Uhuru 3 frame-up.

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

## NYC says NO! to Uhuru 3 frame-up

### Struggle-La Lucha New York bureau

Activists in New York City have mobilized to stop the frame-up of the Uhuru 3.

With their trial going on in Tampa, the December 12th Movement has moved to expose the frame-up, organizing a rally in Brooklyn on Sept. 6.

Among the speakers were former New York assembly member Charles Barron and December 12th chairperson Omowale Clay, who attended the trial in Tampa.

A press conference was held in front of the House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries’ office on Sept. 10 at the Shirley Chisholm State Office Building. #



# Say no to racism in Springfield, Ohio!

The racist campaign against the Haitian community in Springfield, Ohio, is dangerous and must be stopped.

Both Donald Trump and his running mate, Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, are fanning the flames of racial hatred. They're claiming that Haitians living in Springfield are eating people's pets. Billionaire Elon Musk repeated these lies to his nearly 200 million followers on X (formerly known as Twitter).

These ludicrous allegations using racist stereotypes can't be regarded as a mere joke, as many candidates of the Democratic Party are doing. They are the stuff that can lead to mob violence.

What Trump, Vance, and Musk are telling people is that Haitian people are "dangerous savages" who have to be put down and driven out. A neo-Nazi gang called the Blood Tribe was bellying the same message when they marched through Springfield in August carrying swastika flags.

Instead of investigating these Nazis, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost is considering filing a lawsuit to prevent migrants from coming to Ohio. That's reminiscent of an 1807 Ohio ordinance that required Black people coming into the state to post a \$500 bond.

The tragic death of 11-year-old Adrian Clark last year in Springfield when his school bus was struck by a Haitian driver is being used to whip up racism. The plea of Adrian's father, Nathan Clark, a teacher, not to use his son's death to spread hate is being ignored.

Vance posted on X that "a child was murdered by a Haitian migrant."

Nathan Clark responded at a Springfield City Commission hearing, saying "My son was not murdered. He was accidentally killed by an immigrant from Haiti ... don't spin this towards hate."

On Sept. 12, a racist bomb threat forced Springfield's city hall, two

schools, and other facilities to be evacuated. The schools involved had many Haitian students.

## Revenge for liberating themselves

The current racist hysteria is another chapter in over 230 years of revenge against Haitian people for having conducted the only successful slave revolution in history.

The wealthy and powerful in the United States and Europe have never forgiven Haitians for doing so. From Texas to Maryland, U.S. slave masters lived in fear of "another Haiti" breaking out on their plantations.

It was Haitian President Alexandre Pétion who gave Simón Bolívar ships and guns to liberate much of South America from Spanish colonialism. Venezuela's elected President Nicolás Maduro is standing on the shoulders of Pétion and Bolívar.

The white supremacist President Woodrow Wilson had U.S. Marines steal Haiti's gold reserve and occupy the country for nearly 20 years. The Marine who assassinated the Haitian national hero, Charlemagne Peralte, was obscenely awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

While Trump & Co. are spreading filthy lies about Haitians in Ohio, the Biden Administration wants to re-occupy Haiti using soldiers from Kenya and other countries.

## A long history

Springfield, Ohio, has seen mob violence before. Richard Dickerson—sometimes spelled Dixon—was taken from his jail cell there and hanged from a telegraph pole by a mob of racists on March 7, 1904.

Two thousand came to watch the African American die. Revolvers were passed around so that the corpse could be shot up.

After killing Dickerson, the mob



A man and his child at the Haitian Flag Day Festival in Springfield, Ohio, May 18, 2023.

then went to the "Levee" district by the river and burned 150 Black people out of their homes. White firefighters did nothing except protect the drinking establishment owned by Charley Bray, a white saloon keeper.

While all this was happening, Company A of the Ohio National Guard's Ninth Battalion—an all-Black outfit—was kept bottled up in the armory by Springfield Mayor Bowlus. (Cleveland Gazette)

But there's another side to Springfield's history. Seventeen miles away are the Wilberforce University and Central State University campuses, both historically Black institutions (HBCUs).

John Brown lived in Springfield, Ohio from 1845 to 1851, running the "Perkins and Brown" wool warehouse there.

Frederick Douglass first met John Brown in Brown's Springfield home. There, Brown revealed to Douglass his great plan to turn the Allegheny Mountains into a guerilla stronghold. ("John Brown" by W.E.B. Du Bois)

Springfield's Black community righteously rebelled in 1967 against racism.

Like other communities across the Midwest, factory closings have deeply wounded Springfield, pushing back the labor movement. Yet today 1,300 United Auto Workers Local 402 members work at Springfield's Navistar truck plant.

The labor and people's movements have to mobilize to stop the racist hysteria being incited by Trump and Fox News. Beat back the racist attack! #

# People have a right to housing because they have a right to live

By Stephen Millies

Vice President Kamala Harris promises to build three million affordable houses if elected president. Meanwhile, her fellow Democrat — California Gov. Gavin Newsom — has ordered local governments to evict homeless people from their encampments or lose state money.

This is a direct threat to the city of Los Angeles, where at least 29,000 homeless people are living outside. The total number of homeless people in Los Angeles County is over 75,000, of whom 52,000 have no shelter.

Newsom's order is as cruel as Texas Gov. Abbott putting barbed wire in the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) to maim migrants.

Where are homeless people supposed to go? California has an estimated 180,000 homeless people but only 71,000 beds in shelters.

"It's absolute mayhem and craziness," Jeni Shurley told NBC News. Shurley, who lives in Los Angeles, has been homeless for 10 years while working temporary jobs across the United States.

"I have done everything I can, every program that's been offered," she said. "I've taken up on it, and I haven't gotten any assistance that I need whatsoever."

While California has at least 180,000 people without a home, it also has 197 billionaires. Just the richest top 10 of these moneybags have a total stash of \$755 billion.

It's these parasites that Gov. Gavin Newsom works for and collects campaign contributions from. Gavin's daddy — William Newsom III — handled the finances of oil billionaire Gordon Getty.

Newsom's cruelty was given permission by the June 28 decision of the United States Supreme Court in its *Grants Pass v. Johnson* decision. It upheld a *Grants Pass*, Oregon, law that



An encampment in Los Angeles.

made it a crime for people to sleep in public even if they had nowhere to seek shelter.

The greatest crime under capitalism is to be poor.

## No homeless children in Venezuela or Cuba

In a country of 340 million people, the promise of Kamala Harris to have 3 million more houses built over four years falls far short of what's needed.

This isn't a program to directly build 750,000 homes per year. The Vice President is proposing subsidies for "first-time" homebuyers instead.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela — whose population is less than one-tenth of the U.S. — has built 5 million homes over the past 13 years. That's a good reason why Venezuela's President, Nicolás Maduro Moros, was recently re-elected.

Venezuela accomplished this feat despite 930 economic sanctions being placed against it by the United States and its allies.

There are more than 100,000 homeless schoolchildren in New York City, the capital of capitalism. But

there are no homeless children in Cuba or Venezuela.

The number of homeless people is much larger than those in shelters or on the streets. Over 3.7 million people live in doubled-up households.

Many families facing eviction or foreclosure seek shelter with other family members. Overcrowded housing helped kill thousands during the COVID-19 epidemic.

There's a housing crisis in the United States but no housing shortage. Greedy landlords keep apartments off the market to jack up rents.

Just in New York City, 26,310 "rent-stabilized" apartments have been kept empty. Rent control laws do not cover thousands more unoccupied apartments.

That's as criminal as hoarding food during a famine.

Rents across the United States have increased by more than 30% since early 2020. That's higher than the average inflation rate, which certainly outpaces wage growth.

While many homeless people are unemployed, thousands of people with

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# Hostages or settlers?

## The language of the Zionist occupation

By Lev Koufax

On September 1, Zionist occupation forces announced that six “hostages” were found dead near the Rafah border crossing. The announcement sparked all sorts of outrage among the “Israeli” fascist masses.

Demonstrations numbering in the hundreds of thousands of people rocked cities across “Israel.” Further, occupied Palestine’s largest labor union, Histadrut, has called a general strike that will last until the “hostages” are brought back within the 1967 borders.

The central demands of the demonstrations and Histadrut revolved around Zionist captives currently held in Gaza. Zionist society and Western media frame these captives as “hostages” to garner sympathy and rally mass fascist support against Palestine.

The phrase “Bring Them Home” has become a rallying cry for the forces behind the current demonstrations. While these protests are anti-Netanyahu, they should not be misconstrued as progressive. This movement’s main gripe against Net-

anyahu stems from a belief that these six dead captives could have been saved if Netanyahu had not hijacked ceasefire/prisoner exchange talks. The demands of these current “Israeli” protests and strikes are entirely centered around the “hostages.” There is zero language around Palestine.

First things first, these six individuals who died were not hostages. They were Zionists and settlers. For an occupying force to brutally enforce genocide and apartheid against a people and then shame the occupied for their resistance is nothing more than pearl-clutching and political theater.

The blood of every single person, Palestinian or Zionist captive, killed in Gaza covers the hands of the Zionist regime and its imperialist backers. If there was no Zionist occupation, there would be no war. There would be no genocide. There would be no need for Palestinian forces to take prisoners of war, let alone for fascist stormtroopers to launch retrieval missions into Gaza.

Second, the biggest threat to the lives of Zionist captives in Gaza is not any Palestinian resistance orga-

nization. The biggest killer of Zionist captives in Gaza is their own Zionist government. “Israeli” air strikes alone have killed dozens of Zionist captives inside Gaza. This does not even account for all those who have died and are currently dying of starvation and disease due to the generally abhorrent conditions inside the world’s largest open-air concentration camp. The Zionist regime does not care about these people’s lives. To Netanyahu and the Israeli Occupation Force, the “hostages” need to stay exactly where they are to continue justifying the war.

Third, these current demonstrations against Netanyahu around the hostages are not progressive, nor are they anti-Zionist in nature, not even close. For the largest “Israeli” labor union to call a general strike over the deaths of six Zionist settlers but remain silent while the Zionist regime murders tens of thousands of Palestinians in cold blood is laughable. What real labor union fundamentally values one ethnicity of workers over another? The answer is, none. Like so many institutions inside the 1948 borders, Histadrut has become just another mouthpiece for genocide.

If “Israel” wants its “hostages” back so badly, then it should end the siege on Gaza.

*Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.*



The apartheid regime in occupied Palestine is holding 2.3 million people hostage in Gaza. Roughly 10,000 Palestinians are locked up in “Israeli” jails. Some 3 million Palestinians live in another open-air prison, a maze of corridors and partitions in the occupied West Bank. Above, displaced Palestinians gather at a food distribution center in Deir al Balah, central Gaza Strip, on Aug. 30.



International elections observers from the U.S., Africa and Palestine.

SLL correspondents Berta and Andrew honoring Hugo Chavez at his place of burial.



# Venezuela's real story: Grassroots forum counters U.S. propaganda on elections

By Andrew Matatag

You may or may not remember — about a month ago, at the beginning of August, the corporate press ran nearly carbon copy coverage of Venezuela's election. The U.S. State Department issued a statement that the New York Times must have used as a template.

In fact, the State Department released another statement a few days ago titled "Marking One Month Since Venezuela's Presidential Election."

It's like clockwork. A country's people elect a leader who won't kiss the ring of the U.S.; then, the U.S. uses its entire arsenal to delegitimize and destabilize its entire government.

The Peoples Power Assembly in Baltimore, Maryland, held a film screening and forum to tell Venezuela's real story.

After screening Oliver Stone's "South of the Border," the forum began with two eyewitness reports from Ven-

ezuela's elections. The first was a report from Venezuela's 2018 elections, and the second was from 2024.

"What really struck me was how ordinary it all was," said this writer, who visited Venezuela in May 2018 as an elections observer. "On election day, we visited voting precincts all over the country, both in the cities and the countryside. What we saw were completely calm and orderly voting procedures."

"We even toured the factory where the voting machines are built. They showed us how the machines are completely air-gapped — meaning they have never had any interaction with the internet. This keeps them safe from cyber-attack."

The voting machines are air-gapped for good reason. Though the pro-im-



An elderly Venezuelan proudly casts a vote.

perialist opposition cannot cyber-attack the machines themselves — they would if they could — they attack ensuing communications of election reports, slowing down the process of verifying the actual election results.

Jill Clark-Gollub, a member of Friends of Latin America, Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition, and the Americas Without Sanctions, reported on her time as an elections observer this year.

"On July 25, 2024, the last day that campaign-

ing was allowed before the July 28th vote, I saw the largest gathering of Venezuelans since the days of Hugo Chavez," reported Clark-Gollub. "The

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Calm and orderly voting procedures.

Photos: SLL



Loading of voting machines into a truck. The pro-imperialist opposition commonly attacks these trucks.



# High transit fares are a crime

## Buses and subways should be free!

By Stephen Millies

Fares on New York City's buses and subways are 58 times what they were in 1948 when it cost a nickel. That's wholesale robbery of the working class.

The current fare of \$2.90 means people going to and from work have to shell out at least \$29 a week. Many families have to spend \$60 or more per week to get to jobs, schools, or medical appointments.

It's worse for the unemployed. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) wants to raise the fare to at least \$3 next year.

Even compared with other U.S. cities, Gotham's fares are steep. While it costs \$2.50 to get on Chicago's El or Atlanta's metro system, the basic transit fare is \$1.75 in Los Angeles, \$1.70 in Boston, and \$1.25 in Houston.

Hundreds of thousands of people respond to the high fares in New York City by not paying them. They jump the turnstiles, go through a gate, or avoid the farebox on a bus because they can't afford to pay. Good for them!

Transit fares are really transportation taxes on poor and working people. They should be abolished along with sales taxes. Mike Quill — the founder of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) — once called for free fares.

The billionaire class — which always tries to avoid paying taxes — is howling about what they call "fare evasion." So do their elected officials and other servants in the media.

This form of self-help is really mass resistance by poor and working people, especially youth. When the transit fare was hiked from 20 to 30 cents in January 1970, members of Youth Against War and Fascism held subway gates open to let thousands of riders through.

Now the MTA claims that half of the city's bus riders aren't paying the fare. They can't afford it.



New Yorkers protest against high transit fares and police repression in 2020.

The median income of NYC bus riders with a job was just \$28,455 in 2017. The wealthy and powerful consider them to be criminals.

Instead of admitting that the fare, like rent in New York City, is too high, Mayor Adams has sent another 800 more cops into the subways.

New York Gov. Hochul has dispatched 750 members of the National Guard to the subways. Pay the fare or we'll fix bayonets!

### Hatred for the poor

The MTA claims the revenue lost to riders refusing to pay is \$700 million. Compared to the 2023-2024 New York State budget of \$233 billion, the alleged loss amounts to three cents out of a 10-dollar bill.

It's a quarter of the \$2.8 billion that the MTA shells out in tax-free interest to bondholders on its \$47 billion debt. Banks and other financial sharks slurp up this tax-free loot like pigs at a feeding trough.

Yet MTA Chairman Janno Lieber calls non-payment of fares "the No. 1 existential threat" to the transit system. This is the same MTA that initially forbade transit workers from wearing masks during the COVID-19 epidemic.

At least 177 MTA workers, most of them members of TWU Local 100, died of COVID while keeping the city

moving. Never forget that billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg called TWU members "thugs" when they went on strike in 2005.

New York Times columnist Pamela Paul wants to return to mass arrests on the subways. One of the victims was the artist Michael Stewart, who was beaten to death by cops in the subway in 1983.

Paul's article was entitled "The Solution to New York's Transit Problem Is So Obvious Nobody Wants to Hear It." This writer thought it might be an argument for free fares.

Paul instead calls for returning to "broken windows" policing, where cops look upon any small offense, like non-payment of fares, as an excuse to arrest.

This is the same Pamela Paul who attacks gender-affirming care for transgender teenagers in her newspaper columns. Paul's writings have been used by transphobic bigots in Idaho to ban such medical care.

### Free fares!

All of Manhattan's skyscrapers would be worthless without a transit system. A trillion dollars of real estate depends upon getting workers to them.

Yet, for the last 80 years, the capitalist class has starved the subways in

*Continued on page 15*

# Hunger protests in Nigeria lead to arrests and raids



Owei Lamkefa

Nigeria is experiencing its worst economic crisis in a generation. Annual inflation stands at more than 30%. Prices for food like yams, a staple food, are almost four times higher than last year.

New protests against the recent fuel hikes began the first week of September.

Protests, inspired by the protests in Kenya against IMF-imposed austerity, pushing poverty, encouraged protests to demand an end to the Nigerian President's "shock doctrine." The so-called shock therapies that the Nigerian president is currently using include the reduction of gas subsidies, higher electrical costs, and the devaluing of the currency, which is like a pay cut for workers. That austerity allowed Nigeria to get a \$2.25 billion loan from the World Bank and the austerity is celebrated by the banks. But not celebrated by the victims of the imperialist's financial and economic war on the people.

Ten people who took part in last month's protests across Nigeria have been charged with treason and other serious offenses at the federal high court in the capital, Abuja.

All of the accused pleaded not guilty. The charges of treason look very similar to the charges by the U.S. federal government against the three members of the International People's Democratic Uhuru Movement in Florida – serious charges that break down into criminalizing speech.

Amnesty International has labeled the ongoing trials in Nigeria as a "sham."

We are honored to present this report by Nigerian journalist and President of Society of International Awareness (SIRA) Owei Lamkefa.

– John Parker

## Democratizing treasonable felony and deregulating intelligence failure

By Owei Lamkefa.

ADEYEMI Abayomi Abiodun is a respectful, hard-working and dedicated youth. At 6 p.m. Monday, August 26, 2024, he was picked up by the Nigeria Police Force, NPF. He is a staff member of the Iva Valley Bookshop located at the headquarters of the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC. His employment by the bookshop means he is guilty by association.

The police had raided the bookshop in the night of August 7, 2024, in search of Drew Povey, the bookshop owner. The NPF claims that Povey, a Briton, is the prime suspect "in numerous criminal activities across Nigeria and other African countries."

Apparently, Abayomi could not help the police in their investigations nor implicate himself as a sponsor of protests in the country. Those who saw him three days later in police custody said he was in chains and had evidently been badly tortured.

Povey had returned to the United Kingdom on a scheduled trip three days before the police raid, so there was no way Abayomi could produce him.

Povey's immediate family was in a similar dilemma. So members have suffered visitations by security agents. These include visits to the Stars of Nations Schools, which the family runs and where Povey's wife, Helen Batubo, is principal. On August 21, 2024, her home at Serenity Estate, Karshi, in Nasarawa State, was raided.

Povey also claims the police raided his personal home: "The police smashed in the front gate and the back door of my house. They turned everything upside down and stole our television and my granddaughter's bike. They then left the house unlocked for anyone to enter. Lat-

er, police were seen returning to try and trap my family." He also claimed that in the various raids, the NPF had seized his books, photocopier, and car.

Ms. Batubo herself was invited and interrogated by the NPF on allegations of "criminal conspiracy, terrorism financing, treasonable felony, subversion, and cyber crime." These allegations carry a life sentence.

The interrogations reveal that the main claim against Povey is that he is one of the foreign sponsors of protests in the country. Snippets also indicate that he is suspected of sponsoring the ongoing civil war in Sudan, which has claimed some 15,000 lives, 33,000 injured, with at least 10 million persons displaced or becoming refugees.

When in a phone interview, the National Record Newspapers asked Povey about the allegation of sponsoring the Sudanese conflict, he responded: "It is true that I worked as a secondary school teacher in what is now Sudan for a year. But this was 45 years ago and I have not visited the country since then."

Povey has lived on and off Nigeria for about a quarter of a century now and what struck me about him is that he seems a conscientious investor who is committed to Nigeria. I reached this conclusion based on his investment in education, marriage to a Nigerian, which technically should earn him citizenship, and, of course, in running the Iva Valley Bookshop and Business Center.

I am not surprised he is of interest to the security services given the fact that he is an enthusiastic leftist with an undisguised aversion to international agencies like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. These agencies have, since 1986, virtually dictated the economic direction of the

*Continued on page 12*



# Stand in solidarity with Booker Ngesa Omole, Communist Party of Kenya

The Communist Party of Kenya (CPK) has strongly denounced what it describes as “the illegal and politically motivated arrest of our National Vice Chairperson, Booker Ngesa Omole,” on September 7, 2024.

Posting on X (formerly Twitter), the CPK explains that: “Booker was on an official assignment for the Communist Party of Kenya, en route to China, a country with which Kenya has ongoing diplomatic relations. In a shocking display of abuse of power, Booker was arrested aboard a Qatar Airways flight bound for Beijing via Doha. The immigration police at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) acted on a stop order with no basis in law.”

This action by the Kenyan authorities in forcibly preventing one of its citizens from traveling to China on an official invitation is particularly out-

rageous and provocative as it occurs in the immediate aftermath of President William Ruto’s own visit to China to attend the summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and serves to expose the venal and duplicitous nature of the Kenyan comprador bourgeoisie.

The CPK notes that: “The arresting officer even mocked him of competing with the president by thinking he can travel to Beijing when the head of state has just concluded his visit to China. We must ask ourselves: Why is this government so afraid of Booker’s trip to China? What truths does he carry that they fear?”

The CPK has been in the forefront of the recent upsurge in the militant struggle of the Kenyan youth, workers, poor and other sections of the people against poverty, attacks on

living standards, repression, and subordination to imperialism and Booker himself is a courageous and inspirational leader who has clearly struck fear into the hearts of the regime.

Booker and his party are also good friends and close comrades of Friends of Socialist China. He was the main speaker at our meeting on ‘Africa, China and the rise of the Global South’, held at London’s Marx Memorial Library on March 16 this year.

We join with the CPK, the risen people of Kenya, and communists, anti-imperialists, and democrats around the world in demanding that the Kenyan authorities drop any charges against Comrade Booker, return his travel documents and other possessions and cease their harassment and repression against the Kenyan progressive movement and people.

## Statement from the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of Kenya (CPK) Comrade Booker’s Illegal Arrest: A Cowardly Attack by a Regime in Fear

Fellow Kenyans, comrades, and the international community, we come to you in a state of fury and defiance after the illegal and politically motivated arrest of our National Vice Chairperson, Booker Ngesa Omole, on the 7th of September, 2024.

This regime has once again shown its true colors—an administration of fear, repression, and state-sponsored harassment against those who dare challenge its authority. Booker was on an official assignment for the Communist Party of Kenya, en route to China, a country with which Kenya has ongoing diplomatic relations. In a shocking display of abuse of power, Booker was arrested aboard a Qatar Airways flight bound for Beijing via Doha. The immigration police at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) acted on a stop order with no basis in law, detaining



Booker Ngesa Omole

him for six hours before handing him over to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). The state is desperately trying to silence the leaders of the revolutionary movement. What was the basis of Booker’s arrest? Incitement to violence—an outrageous and baseless charge meant to humiliate and intimidate. The arresting officer even mocked him of competing

with the president by thinking he can travel to Beijing when the head of state has just concluded his visit to China. The absurdity of this explanation exposes the fragile paranoia gripping this regime. The Kenyan government is willing to expend more resources chasing after revolutionaries than addressing the real criminals plundering our country. We must ask ourselves: why is this government so afraid of Booker’s trip to China?

What truths does he carry that they fear? Let it be known: there is nothing illegal about Booker’s travel! The same President who continues runs from the truth in Kenya only visits China to peddle lies and more lies. The hypocrisy is staggering.

Booker was taken from JKIA to Central Police Station under the cover of

*Continued on page 12*

# Hunger protests in Nigeria lead to arrests

*Continued from page 10*

country. This may make Povey appear like an enemy of the state.

I also find interesting the fact that he named his seven-year-old bookshop Iva Valley. That is the coal mine where, on Nov. 18, 1949, British colonialists opened fire on striking coal miners. Twenty-one miners were killed and 51 others injured in the shootings. This became known as the Iva Valley Massacre. Apart from the international outcry it elicited, that event became the rallying point for nationalists.

Since independence, the political elites have tried to downplay that massacre and its significance in the anti-colonial struggles. Comrade Ola Oni, an outstanding radical, mentor of youths and conscientious intellectual, had tried to keep it alive by naming his popular bookshop in Bodija, Ibadan, Iva Valley Bookshop. But that seems to have collapsed after he passed away on December 22, 1999.

The last time I met Povey and Abayomi at a public function was on July 19, 2024, when the proactive Political Science Department of Bingham University organized a symposium to commemorate 50 years of the famous book *How Europe Underdeveloped Af-*

*rica*, written by the intellectual giant and political activist, Walter Rodney.

A salutary contribution by the duo on that occasion was to make the book available to all those who wanted copies. The price was low, as are most books the bookshop sells.

Let me add that it is not just Povey, Batubo, and Abayomi that are being accused of these serious crimes. Others, like Comrade Joe Ajaero, President of the NLC, are similarly accused. Also, six Polish students and a lecturer were arrested for allegedly taking part in the 'End Hunger Protests' in Kano and waving Russian flags while doing so. I felt ashamed that our security agents did not have the most basic knowledge of international relations. If their leaders did, they would have known how weird it is to accuse the Polish of carrying Russian flags. Good sense prevailed, and the Polish were released after some weeks.

This liberal democratization of these crimes reminds me of the Abacha junta. In those days, any seeming dissident earned you an allegation of being "an accessory after the fact of treason", and you are off to life in jail. When the then Publisher of The Sunday Magazine, TSM, said she doubted the veracity of an alleged coup by

Colonel Lawan Gwadabe, she was sentenced to life.

When TheNews magazine reported that the Military Tribunal was setting some of the accused coup plotters free, one of its Editors, Kunle Ajibade, was tried as an accessory and received life sentence. Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, the leader of the Pro-Democracy Movement, was suspected of being in possession of the defense statement of coup suspect Colonel Bello Fadile. For this, he was tried as an accessory to treason and sentenced to life.

The security agencies should not return the country to those Babangida and Abacha junta days. They need to concentrate on the rampant cases of banditry, terrorism, and kidnappings that have seized the country. They also need to win the trust of the citizenry, especially the youth, who can assist in fighting the true enemies of the state and ensure the protection of the country.

Let me draw the government's attention to a reality. While it is dissipating energy searching universities, bookshops, and bus stops and accusing Poles, Britons, Nigeriens, and Nigerians in the Diaspora of sponsoring the protests, hunger, the real sponsor, is hiding in plain sight. #

## Stand in solidarity with Booker Ngesa Omole, CPK

*Continued from page 11*

night, where he was locked up for two hours. It was only due to public pressure and multiple calls to the Inspector General that he was released at 11 p.m. But the damage had been done.

His travel documents—passport, yellow fever card, and boarding pass—were confiscated, and to this moment, the state has yet to return them. Let this be clear: the charges of incitement and the use of Section 56 of the Police Act are relics of colonial rule, unconstitutional and out of place in post-2010 Kenya. These laws must be quashed from our penal code, and we demand their immediate abolition.

This harassment will not deter us. The Kenya Kwanza regime, led by the dictator William Ruto, must return Booker's travel documents immediately and cease this state-sponsored witch hunt. They can try to harass us, intimidate us, and fabricate charges, but the truth is on our side. The only criminals here are the ones sitting in power, auctioning off our country to imperialists and multinational corporations.

Ruto shall not change. He is beyond reform. Every act of repression only cements what we have long known: the only solution for this nation is to remove him from power once and for all. The Kenyan people deserve leadership that fights for them, not against them.

The Communist Party of Kenya, alongside all revolutionaries and patriots, will continue the struggle for justice, freedom, and dignity. To the Kenyan people, rise up! Let this illegal arrest serve as a reminder of the lengths this regime will go to maintain its grip on power.

We shall not be silenced. Ruto and his cronies have no future in a free and just Kenya. The people shall prevail. The revolution will triumph. Return Booker's documents! Stop the witch hunt! Ruto must go!

Signed, The Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of Kenya In solidarity with the oppressed masses of Kenya. #



# ILA faces off against Wall Street

*Continued from page 3*

new contract for our members, with our current contract expiring on Oct. 1, 2024. We know what we're up against, and we're ready to fight to protect and preserve our jobs and our industry.

"We've been paying close attention to the enormous profits ocean carriers, and terminal operators have made in recent years. ... These companies have raised rates on their customers to keep their profits soaring, but they refuse to share this wealth with the workers who helped them achieve these profits. Instead, they aim to cut costs further by eliminating jobs and attempting to automate our work."

## Will Biden issue strike-breaking Taft-Hartley order?

When ILA president Harold Daggett spoke to the members in a video during the September delegates meeting, he said they were bargaining in good faith. He threatened a worker slowdown if the Biden administration forced the union workers back to the docks using the Taft-Hartley Act.

"Taft-Hartley means I have to go back to work [for 80 days] after a cooling off period," said Daggett. "What do you think when I go back after those [80 days], that those men are going to go back to work on that pier? It's going to cost them money. They're going to be like this," he said, making a gesture of putting his hands around his throat in a choke hold. The company's money to pay their salaries while they go from 30 [container] moves an hour maybe to eight?" he said. "You're better off sitting down and let's get a contract, and let's move on with this."

During ILWU contract negotiations on the West Coast in 2023, longshore workers worked at a rate that created a logjam of trucking and rail containers. Union actions in recent years have impacted the global supply chain.

Intervening on behalf of the distribution companies, governments have been forcing union workers off the picket line and back onto the job.



Photo: ILAUnion.org

The Canadian government intervened in contract negotiations this August. Trade between Canada and the U.S. was disrupted after Canadian freight rail workers, represented by the Teamsters, were locked out during contract negotiations by Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City.

The Canadian Teamsters issued a statement saying: "By resorting to binding arbitration, the government has allowed CN and CPKC to sidestep a union determined to protect rail safety. Despite claiming to value and honor the collective bargaining process, the

federal government quickly used its authority to suspend it, mere hours after an employer-imposed work stoppage. This action mirrors their earlier interference this year, where they used the CIRB to stifle bargaining for months."

Despite his claim to be "union-friendly," U.S. President Joe Biden called on Congress to intervene in the stalled talks between

railroads and some of the rail industry's major unions. Congress passed legislation on Nov. 30, 2022, that enforced a rail labor agreement and blocked the workers' right to strike.

Reflecting the pressure of the upcoming election and in a naked distortion of the truth, the Biden administration told CNBC during the first week of September, "We've never invoked Taft-Hartley to break a strike and are not considering doing so now."

An ILA strike on Oct. 1 would impact not only the U.S. economy but the U.S. elections as well. It may be a bargaining chip in the union's favor. #

# People have a right to housing

*Continued from page 6*

low-paying jobs live in cars because the rents are so high.

## Housing is a human right!

People need more than inadequate subsidies for home buying. We need rent rollbacks and a ban on housing foreclosures.

The Biden-Harris administration has poured over \$55 billion in arms into the proxy war against the Russian Federation in Ukraine. At least another \$12.5 billion has been poured into the genocidal war against Gaza.

This \$67.5 billion being used to kill children could have built 225,000 new apartments at \$300,000 per unit. It's nearly as much as the \$78 billion the New York City Housing Authority claims it needs to fix its apartments.

Before Wisconsin Sen. Joe McCarthy became known as an anti-communist witch-hunter, he attacked public hous-

ing programs. He did so on behalf of the real estate lobby.

These same developers and real estate outfits defended housing segregation for decades. Metropolitan Life Insurance kept Black people out of its Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village, and Parkchester apartment complexes in New York City.

Donald Trump's daddy, Fred Trump, refused to rent to Black people. Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner is a big slumlord in Baltimore and elsewhere.

Instead of Biden larding out another \$8.5 billion being given to the anti-union Intel corporation, we need a massive program to build public housing.

One of the first acts of the Cuban Revolution in 1959 was to ban evictions and roll back rents and utility bills. We need to organize the power of the people to make housing a human right. #

# El mensaje del DNC (Convención Nacional Demócrata) : ¡Guerra! ¡Guerra! ¡Y Más guerra!

*Continúa de página 16*

para cambiar su nombre a Abandonen a Harris.

## Lo que hay detrás del mensaje

¿A qué se debe el repentino aumento de los demócratas, particularmente en términos de respaldo financiero, junto con las excelentes críticas en los principales medios de comunicación?

José Ramón Cabañas Rodríguez, director del Centro de Investigación de Política Internacional en La Habana, Cuba, infiere la respuesta en su ecuación Kamala-Trump-Walz-Vance:

“Pero quizás una de las claves de lo que estaba sucediendo bajo la superficie la dio el megabanco JPMorgan en una comunicación dirigida a sus clientes:

“A los mercados no les gusta la incertidumbre, y parte de la fortaleza de los activos de riesgo durante el verano probablemente se debió a la mayor probabilidad de una victoria republicana. No nos sorprendería ver más turbulencias a medida que evolucione la carrera presidencial”.

“Lo que en ese momento era una mera probabilidad se confirmó de manera escalofriante con la caída récord en los principales mercados bursátiles el 5 de agosto.

“Para el mundo financiero estadounidense, lo opuesto a la incertidumbre es la predictibilidad. En las nuevas circunstancias, esta condición parece más probable en el Partido Demócrata, que no solo podría ofrecer una sensación de continuidad a partir del 2028 al equipo que podría ser elegido este noviembre, sino que también exhibe una lista de probables ‘líderes’ para el futuro que no están presentes en el Partido Republicano”.

Harris proviene de Silicon Valley y representa, en gran medida, a los capitalistas de alta tecnología cuyos intereses están conectados con la maquinaria de guerra y los industriales militares. Por supuesto, estos acontecimientos no se basan en un solo sector de la clase capitalista, sino más bien en



**Candidatos de terceros partidos Cornel West, activista por los derechos civiles; Claudia De la Cruz, Partido por el Socialismo y la Liberación; y Jill Stein, Partido Verde; hablaron en el Abandonar a Biden el 19 de agosto, que votó a favor de cambiar su nombre a Abandonar a Harris.**

lo que beneficia a todo el conjunto de ladrones depredadores, desde los banqueros hasta los terratenientes.

La economía capitalista estadounidense se basa (y no sólo cada vez más) predominantemente en el gasto militar y en especulaciones arriesgadas en el mercado de valores. No es un crecimiento real basado en la producción para el consumo. El resultado es una inflación continua, marcada por el desempleo y el estancamiento.

## El guante de terciopelo y el puño de hierro

En este momento, el Partido Demócrata parece que podría surgir como ganador en las elecciones presidenciales de noviembre. Aunque suene burdo, hay que seguir el rastro del dinero; y no es que Trump no tenga a sus contribuyentes multimillonarios como Timothy Mellon, heredero de la fortuna bancaria de Mellon, y otros, principalmente del sector inmobiliario. La campaña de Harris se jacta de haber recaudado 540 millones de dólares desde su lanzamiento.

Pero, por supuesto, nada está garantizado, especialmente en el mundo caótico, despiadado y no planificado de la política capitalista. El mismo Colegio Electoral que todos los millonarios de ambos partidos han consagrado puede

jugar a favor de la campaña de Trump.

La mayoría de los trabajadores, especialmente en las grandes ciudades, odian a Trump, y por muy buenas razones. Es un bufón racista, misógino, antiobrero y antiinmigrante. Y es un fascista. Es un buen instinto sentirse horrorizado por Trump.

Pero adoptar al Partido Demócrata como una alternativa real, cuyas políticas neoliberales en el país y en el extranjero han proporcionado el terreno para este desarrollo, no es una solución. De hecho, han alimentado el crecimiento de movimientos abiertamente fascistas.

Se podría decir que la maquinaria del Partido Demócrata representa el guante de terciopelo y los republicanos el puño de hierro. Pero no es tan simple. Es más preciso decir que, ya sea la administración Biden o una futura administración Harris, estamos sujetos tanto al guante de terciopelo como al puño de hierro al mismo tiempo.

El llamado sistema electoral burgués “democrático” y sus resultantes funcionarios electos son solo una parte de la superestructura del sistema capitalista: existe el aparato estatal de represión, que se ha vuelto más grande y más virulento y es un producto y una consecuencia de la militarización de la

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## El mensaje del DNC

*Continúa de página 14*  
economía estadounidense.

Son el puño de hierro e incluyen a la racista policía asesina, el FBI con sus redadas y espionaje, los departamentos del sheriff plagados de neofascistas, el sistema judicial y penitenciario, y mucho más. Ellos, junto con el Pentágono, son los garantes del gobierno de los multimillonarios tanto en el país como en el extranjero.

El embajador retirado Chas Freeman, que fue el traductor de Nixon durante su viaje a China en 1972, dijo recientemente: “Estados Unidos está en medio de una creciente crisis constitucional que llegará a su punto crítico con las elecciones del 5 de noviembre y la transición a la toma de posesión del próximo presidente el 20 de enero... El gobierno civil en Washington puede desintegrarse a fines de este año, pero las Fuerzas Armadas de Estados Unidos no lo harán”.

Mientras que la élite del Partido Demócrata pregona la libertad y los derechos constitucionales, los ataques masivos y violentos contra campamentos estudiantiles que se oponen al genocidio en Gaza contradicen el derecho mismo a protestar. Los despidos de maestros y trabajadores que se posicionan a favor incluso de un alto el fuego se hacen para acallar a la oposición.

El escalofriante caso de los 3 de UHURU, miembros del Partido Socialista de los Pueblos Africanos que fueron víctimas de equipos SWAT militarizados y acusados de conspiración por hablar en contra de la maquinaria de guerra, tiene como objetivo aplastar la libertad de expresión. Los ataques a organizaciones sin fines de lucro como The Peoples Forum en la ciudad de Nueva York, amenazan la capacidad de construir centros organizativos.

Debe ser imposible para las madres y los padres palestinos, que lloran a sus hijos asesinados y sufren un genocidio absoluto, y para los pueblos ocupados y colonizados de toda la región, oír hablar de “un mal menor”. Es hora de romper con ambos partidos capitalistas y acabar con todo “mal”. #

## Venezuela's real story: Grassroots forum counters U.S. propaganda on elections

*Continued from page 8*

people's enthusiasm for their revolution is still going strong!”

“No wonder, since the government has managed to deliver 5.1 million low-cost or free homes; free health care has been brought to every neighborhood through the Barrio Adentro program; education is free with more previously poor students studying in higher education; illiteracy has been eliminated; participatory democracy flourishes through a system of communes and councils; and the country has overcome the crisis caused by crushing U.S. unilateral coercive measures, or ‘sanctions.’”

The vote on Sunday, July 28, 2024, Clark-Gollub reports, was another civic festival. There was a high turnout in a process that was peaceful, orderly, and upbeat. Violence only broke out

the day after, but on a much smaller scale than in previous episodes.

“Fortunately, the violence ended within 48 hours,” reported Clark-Gollub, “thanks in large part to the huge turnout of ordinary Venezuelans who took to the streets to show that the majority of the people are in favor of peace and support their revolution.”

The audience in attendance completely agreed — Venezuela's Bolivarian revolution must be defended, especially from U.S.-led interference, sabotage, and sanctions.

On Aug. 22nd, Venezuela's Supreme Tribunal of Justice — their equivalent of a Supreme Court — verified President Maduro's victory. The very next day, the U.S. State Department released a statement questioning the credibility of the ruling without any evidence at all. #

## High transit fares are a crime

*Continued from page 9*

the Big Apple while wrecking transit systems across the United States. Big Oil considered public transit to be dangerous competition.

New York City may be the only metropolis on earth with fewer transit lines than it had in the 1940s. That's because elevated lines like the Third Avenue El in Manhattan and the Bronx were torn down without being replaced by subways.

Less than 29% of subway stations are accessible to people with disabilities.

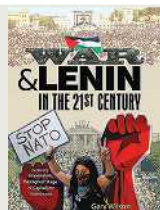
Instead of building new subway lines, expressways like the Cross Bronx were rammed through neigh-

borhoods, displacing tens of thousands of families. That's a crime, not poor people getting on a bus for free.

In contrast, the socialist People's Republic of China built 62 new metro lines in 35 cities just in 2021.

The proposed congestion fee that will force cars and trucks entering lower Manhattan to pay a toll will be a fiasco. It will also pit workers who need to use a car against workers who ride a bus or subway.

Just the billions in weapons being sent to kill Palestinian children in Gaza could provide free fare for everyone coast-to-coast. Just as we won Social Security and Medicare, we can win free fares. #



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# El mensaje del DNC (Convención Nacional Demócrata) : ¡Guerra! ¡Guerra! ¡Y Más guerra!

29 de agosto de 2024

Por Sharon Black

Cerca de 20.000 personas participaron en las grandes marchas convocadas por la Coalición para marchar contra el DNC el lunes 19 de agosto y el jueves 22 de agosto. Se llevaron a cabo acciones durante toda la semana, incluida una marcha a la Misión Israelí. Representantes de Struggle-La Lucha por el Socialismo marcharon y participaron en las protestas fuera de la convención.

En un tiempo récord, la maquinaria del Partido Demócrata descartó a Joe Biden, coronó a Kamala Harris y montó un espectáculo de convención sin precedentes que impresionó al mundo, del 19 al 22 de agosto.

Probablemente se gastaron más de mil millones de dólares (se pagaron más de 76 millones de dólares al Departamento de Policía de Chicago por “horas extra” y equipo). Con esa cantidad de dinero, pueden pasar muchas cosas, y rápidamente.

El discurso de aceptación de la vicepresidenta Kamala Harris resumió el núcleo del programa del DNC. Una vez que se eliminan los lugares comunes y los discursos sentimentales a favor de un “futuro” mejor, se encuentra el núcleo del mensaje: guerra y más guerra.

Harris prometió a los generales del Pentágono, a los banqueros y a los fabricantes de armas, entre los que se incluyen las empresas de inteligencia artificial y de alta tecnología que están tambaleándose, que la guerra continuará, ya sea la guerra por subsidiarios de Estados Unidos y la OTAN en Ucrania, o la guerra no tan fría contra China, Venezuela, Cuba, Irán, Líbano, Yemen y la República Popular Democrática de Corea.

Afirmó: “Como comandante en jefe, me aseguraré de que Estados Unidos siempre tenga la fuerza de combate más fuerte y letal del mundo”.

Sobre la cuestión de Palestina, estas son las declaraciones directas de Harris:



SLL foto: Sharon Black

Cerca de 20,000 personas participaron en las grandes marchas convocadas por la Coalición para Marchar en el DNC el lunes 19 de agosto y el jueves 22 de agosto. Las acciones tuvieron lugar durante toda la semana, incluida una marcha a la Misión Israelí. Representantes de Struggle-La Lucha por el Socialismo marcharon y participaron en las protestas fuera de la convención.

“Siempre defenderé el derecho de Israel a defenderse, y siempre me aseguraré de que Israel tenga la capacidad de defenderse, porque el pueblo de Israel nunca más debe enfrentar el horror que una organización terrorista llamada Hamás causó el 7 de octubre, incluida una violencia sexual indescriptible y la masacre de jóvenes en un festival de música”.

Los que estaban tras bastidores y crearon el espectáculo del DNC, hicieron que los participantes entusiasmados, gritaran “¡U.S.A.! ¡U.S.A.!” durante la presentación de Harris, imitando los mítines MAGA de Trump.

La vicepresidenta Harris también proclamó: “Prometo ser una presidenta para todos los estadounidenses”. Pero una voz muy importante faltaba en el “todos”: el pueblo palestino.

Los delegados no comprometidos habían luchado para que el DNC permitiera que al menos un orador palestino hablara. Esto incluyó una sentada que duró toda la noche antes del último día. Incluso

prometieron al DNC que el mensaje podría ser visto antes. Pero sus súplicas fueron aplastadas en una ciudad que cuenta con la diáspora palestina más grande de los Estados Unidos.

Tampoco hubo familiares de Sonia Massey para pedir por las vidas negras o recordarle al mundo que el terror policial racista continúa. Las verdaderas voces de los trabajadores, los oprimidos, las mujeres, la comunidad LGBTQ+, los negros, los latinos, los árabes, los mexicanos, los indígenas y los asiáticos estaban fuera de la conferencia protestando.

Los candidatos de un tercer partido, Cornel West, activista nacional de derechos civiles; Claudia De la Cruz, del Partido Socialismo y Liberación; y Jill Stein, del Partido Verde; hablaron en la conferencia de prensa de Abandonen a Biden el 19 de agosto, que votó

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